

## Swan struck by vehicle

BY MOLLY TYSON

Last Wednesday started out as an upbeat sunny morning; there we were waiting to meet the school bus one last day before summer vacation. Sadly when the bus door opened, the driver greeted us with a somber request to please call the Animal Control Officer. One of Duxbury's beautiful swans from the South River Reservoir had just been struck by a car and killed. Judging by the feathers strewn all over the road, the swan was not just struck but possibly thrown up into the air or dragged some 30 yards up the road to where it lay by the intersection of Chandler and Congress streets.

This sad act was clearly an instance of some careless driver who was in a rush or

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**The male swan who was the victim of a hit and run last Wednesday**

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perhaps otherwise distracted by being on the phone or texting. Even more disturbing is that this disinterested individual did not even care enough to stop.

Unfortunately the fences that were put up a couple of years ago to protect the swans from venturing into the road and into the path of inconsiderate speeders are gone. In the past we've all experienced a day where we were forced to slow down our lives by the swans and occasionally their cygnets as they waddled across the road. The only reactions I ever saw from other drivers were pleasant smiles. That these helpless creatures were able to halt our cars and put expressions of happiness on our faces for just a few minutes is a sad testament to the harried lives we live.

On a street where drivers frequently travel 50 mph instead of the posted 30 mph, we are long overdue for measures to help protect our animals and children from being hit by speeding vehicles. Apparently the "Swans Crossing" sign is not enough. A new fence needs to go up to protect the swans and speed limits need to be reduced and/or enforced with radar.

It was sad the first few days to go by the pond and see the lonely female swan drifting alone or worse, waiting by the road for her partner to return. She has now moved across the street to safer territories far beyond her former home where she won't be bothered by speeding cars. Everyone knows that swans mate for life. Unfortunately, one of Duxbury's most beautiful creatures will be alone the rest of hers. Please slow down Duxbury drivers and be considerate of the animals that also call our town home.

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**A young swan awaits the return of his father.**

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**The mother swan cuddles her baby under her wing.**

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